

Message Text

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USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1228

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

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TAGS: PINT, GW, SW
SUBJECT: LIFE SENTENCES FOR THE DEFENDANTS OF THE STOCKHOLM TRIAL

REF: 76 DUSSELDORF A-112, DUSSELDORF A-91

1. ON JULY 20, 1977, THE 99TH DAY OF THE TRIAL THE NORTH
RHINE-WESTPHALIAN (NRW) STATE SUPREME COURT FOUND THE FOUR
DEFENDANTS, HANNA ELISE KRABBE, LUTZ MANFRED TAUFER,
BERNHARD MARIA ROESSNER AND KARL-HEINZ DELLWO, GUILTY OF
THE MURDER OF GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHE ANDREAS BARON VON
MIRBACH AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE DR. HEINZ HILLEGAAARD IN
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THEIR ATTACK ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM ON
APRIL 24, 1975. THE PRESIDING JUDGE HERMANN JOSEF
MUELLER PRONOUNCED A DOUBLE LIFE SENTENCE FOR EACH OF
THE DEFENDANTS.

2. THE DEFENDANTS AND ABOUT TWO DOZEN SYMPATHIZERS
IN THE AUDIENCE RESPONDED TO THE PRONOUNCEMENT WITH

NOISY DEMONSTRATIONS. THE DEMONSTRATING SYMPATHIZERS WERE REMOVED FROM THE COURT ROOM AND THE DEFENDANTS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE REST OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

3. IN HIS ARGUMENT FOR THE SENTENCE THE PRESIDING JUDGE NOTED THAT THE SIX ATTACKERS OF THE EMBASSY, TWO OF WHOM (ULLRICH WESSEL AND SIEGFRIED HAUSNER) DIED AFTER AN EXPLOSION IN THE EMBASSY, HAD ADMITTED TO HAVE FORMED A CONSPIRACY TO ATTACK THE EMBASSY, TO TAKE HOSTAGES TO EFFECT THE RELEASE OF 26 TERRORISTS AND TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTION COLLECTIVELY. DURING THE TRIAL THE FOUR DEFENDANTS HAD EXPRESSLY ADMITTED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING VON MIRBACH AND HILLEGAARD (SEE A-112). ALTHOUGH THE PAINSTAKING COURT HEARINGS WITH 60 WITNESSES AND 12 EXPERTS, MANY OF WHICH WERE HEARD SEVERAL TIMES, COULD NOT PIN THE MURDERS ON ONE INDIVIDUAL, THE COURT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSION COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED, BUT THE COURT RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A THIRD PARTY BEING INVOLVED, AS CLAIMED BY THE DEFENDANTS.

4. THE SENTENCE WAS PRECEDED BY THE PLEADINGS OF THE DEFENSE LAWYERS AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS BY THE DEFENDANTS. DR. KLAUS CROISSANT (MEANWHILE "EMIGRATED" TO FRANCE, AS ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS SAID) HANS
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CHRISTIAN STROEBELE, AND THE DEFENDANTS CLAIMED THAT THE DEFENDANTS WERE ARMED COMBATANTS OF THE RED ARMY FACTION (RAF) AT WAR WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS PRISONERS OF WAR. THE COURT-APPOINTED DEFENSE LAWYERS PLEADED FOR A LIMITED INSTEAD OF A LIFE SENTENCE.

5. THE DEFENDANTS HAVE BEEN ON A HUNGER STRIKE SINCE JUNE 22, 1977 TO ENFORCE THEIR DEMAND FOR TRANSFER TO THE STAMMHEIM PRISON NEAR STUTTGART WHERE MEMBERS OF THE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG ARE BEING DETAINED.DUX

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